

Dated: January 26, 1996.
 Susan G. Esserman,
*Assistant Secretary for Import
 Administration.*
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[A-588-839]

Initiation of Antidumping Duty Investigation: Sodium Azide From Japan

AGENCY: Import Administration, International Trade Administration, Department of Commerce.

EFFECTIVE DATE: February 9, 1996.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: John Beck at (202) 482-3464 or Jennifer Stagner at (202) 482-1673, Office of Antidumping Investigations, Import Administration, International Trade Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce, 14th Street and Constitution Avenue, N.W., Washington, DC 20230.

INITIATION OF INVESTIGATION:

The Applicable Statute

Unless otherwise indicated, all citations to the statute are references to the provisions effective January 1, 1995, the effective date of the amendments made to the Tariff Act of 1930 (the Act) by the Uruguay Round Agreements Act (URAA).

The Petition

On January 16, 1996, the Department of Commerce (the Department) received a petition filed in proper form by the American Azide Corporation (the petitioner), the sole U.S. producer of sodium azide. A supplement to the petition was filed on January 29, 1996.

In accordance with section 732(b) of the Act, the petitioner alleges that imports of sodium azide from Japan are being, or are likely to be, sold in the United States at less than fair value within the meaning of section 731 of the Act, and that such imports are materially injuring, or threatening material injury to, a U.S. industry.

The petitioner states that it has standing to file the petition because it is an interested party, as defined under section 771(9)(C) of the Act.

Determination of Industry Support for the Petition

Section 732(c)(4)(A) of the Act requires the Department to determine, prior to the initiation of an investigation, that a minimum percentage of the domestic industry supports an antidumping petition. A petition meets these minimum requirements if (1) the domestic

producers or workers who support the petition account for at least 25 percent of the total production of the domestic like product; and (2) the domestic producers or workers who support the petition account for more than 50 percent of the production of the domestic like product produced by that portion of the industry expressing support for, or opposition to, the petition.

A review of the data provided in the petition and other information readily available to the Department indicates that the petitioner is the sole producer of sodium azide in the United States. The Department received no expressions of opposition to the petition from any interested party. Accordingly, the Department determines that this petition is supported by the domestic industry.

Scope of the Investigation

The product covered by this investigation is sodium azide (NaN_3) regardless of use, and whether or not combined with silicon oxide (SiO_2) or any other inert flow assisting agent. The merchandise under investigation is currently classifiable under item 2850.00.50.00 of the *Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States (HTSUS)*. Although the HTSUS subheading is provided for convenience and customs purposes, our written description of the scope of this investigation is dispositive.

Export Price and Normal Value

The petitioner based export price on delivered prices in the United States quoted by a Japanese producer. These prices were adjusted by the petitioner for U.S. and foreign inland freight, ocean freight, U.S. duties, and the U.S. trading company mark-up.

The petitioner based normal value on delivered prices in Japan quoted by a Japanese producer. The unit price quotes denominated in Japanese yen were converted by the petitioner to U.S. dollars using the exchange rate in effect at the beginning of the third quarter of 1995. An adjustment was made for foreign inland freight.

Based on comparisons of export price to normal value, the estimated dumping margins for sodium azide from Japan range from 58.50 to 65.80 percent.

Fair Value Comparisons

Based on the data provided by the petitioner, there is reason to believe that imports of sodium azide from Japan are being, or likely to be, sold at less than fair value. If it becomes necessary at a later date to consider this petition as a source of facts available under section

776 of the Act, we may review further the calculations.

Initiation of Investigation

We have examined the petition on sodium azide and have found that it meets the requirements of section 732 of the Act, including the requirements concerning allegations of the material injury or threat of material injury to the domestic producers of a domestic like product by reason of the complained-of imports, allegedly sold at less than fair value. Therefore, we are initiating an antidumping duty investigation to determine whether imports of sodium azide from Japan are being, or are likely to be, sold in the United States at less than fair value. Unless extended, we will make our preliminary determination by June 24, 1996.

Distribution of Copies of the Petition

In accordance with section 732(b)(3)(A) of the Act, a copy of the public version of the petition has been provided to the representatives of the government of Japan. We will attempt to provide copies of the public versions of the petition to all the exporters named in the petition.

International Trade Commission (ITC) Notification

We have notified the ITC of our initiation, as required by section 732(d) of the Act.

Preliminary Determination by the ITC

The ITC will determine by March 1, 1996, whether there is a reasonable indication that imports of sodium azide from Japan are causing material injury, or threatening to cause material injury, to a U.S. industry. A negative ITC determination will result in the investigation being terminated; otherwise, this investigation will proceed according to statutory and regulatory time limits.

Dated: February 5, 1996.

Susan G. Esserman,
*Assistant Secretary for Import
 Administration.*

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[C-549-804]

Carbon Steel Butt-Weld Pipe Fittings From Thailand; Final Results of Countervailing Duty Administrative Review

AGENCY: Import Administration, International Trade Administration, Department of Commerce.